



*2021-2022 SMCA  
Officers, Directors, and Trustees*

Magazine



**Also in this issue:**  
**EPA in 4 Penn Center**  
**SMACNA Convention**

# SMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021—2022

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## SMCA MEMBER FIRMS

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<b>Air Distribution Systems Inc.</b> , 856-874-1100, Cherry Hill, NJ	<b>Lor-Mar Mechanical Services, Inc.</b> , 856-662-5151, Pennsauken, NJ
<b>AerDux, Inc.</b> , 856-933-2400, Bellmawr, NJ	<b>Luthe Sheet Metal, Inc.</b> , 856-910-7000, Cherry Hill, NJ
<b>Air Concepts, Inc.</b> , 215-788-2880, Bristol, PA	<b>Marx Sheet Metal &amp; Mechanical, Inc.</b> 267-486-1999, West Chester, PA
<b>Air Systems, Inc.</b> , 856-234-3336, Mt. Laurel, NJ	<b>Modern Controls, Inc.</b> , 302-325-6800, New Castle, DE
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<b>Camden Mechanical</b> , 856-676-0500, Camden, NJ	<b>Precision Air Design, LLC</b> , 484-461-7500, Clifton Heights, PA
<b>Dynamic Balancing Co.</b> , 610-337-2757, King of Prussia, PA	<b>Prime Sheet Metal, Inc.</b> , 215-672-9191, Warminster, PA
<b>Eastern Air Balance Corp.</b> , 717-492-1846, Manheim, PA	<b>Restaurant Ventilation Design, Inc.</b> , 856-848-7411, Wenonah, NJ
<b>Edward J. DeSeta Co., Inc.</b> , 302-691-2040, Wilmington, DE	<b>SSM Industries, Inc.</b> , 856-345-2525, West Deptford, NJ
<b>Environmental Construction Svcs.</b> , 215-904-5097, Philadelphia, PA	<b>Tab Systems, Inc.</b> , 856-809-0395, West Berlin, NJ
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<b>Hays Sheet Metal, Inc.</b> , 856-662-7722, Pennsauken, NJ	<b>W. F. Smith, Inc.</b> , 215-624-1313, Philadelphia, PA
<b>Hunter Mechanical, Inc.</b> , 610-344-9777, West Chester, PA	<b>Wm. J. Donovan Co., Inc.</b> , 215-225-3677, Philadelphia, PA
<b>Independent Balancing Co., Inc.</b> , 215-849-3131, Philadelphia, PA	

## SMCA STAFF

<b><u>Executive Director/CEO</u></b>	<b>Peter Jenkins, Esq.</b> - pjenkins@smca.org
<b><u>Safety Professional/Program Director</u></b>	<b>Gregory Wharton</b> - gwharton@smca.org
<b><u>Membership Services</u></b>	<b>Trish Casey</b> - tcasey@smca.org
<b><u>Bookkeeper/Office Manager</u></b>	<b>Russell Smith</b> - rsmith@smca.org
<b><u>Receptionist/Secretary</u></b>	<b>Rebecca Pearson</b> - rpearson@smca.org



## From the Exec's Desk

Greetings,

In a whirlwind spring, it appears that we have put many of the past year's COVID-restricted practices behind us. Businesses are open to full capacity

again, vaccinations have proven effective, many people have removed the ubiquitous face coverings and returned to a nearly pre-pandemic lifestyle. This includes SMCA, as we have already held several in-person events successfully and plan to continue with our traditional schedule. We were thrilled to be joined by some of our local Congressional representatives at April's Legislative Dinner. We had a real blast during May's Sporting Clays Outing. And June's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers prepared us for the rest of 2021 and what to expect in 2022.

SMCA is excited about industry activity picking up in the area as we rebuild from last year. Restaurant ventilation, school and university HVAC upgrades, and an eagerness to return to offices, malls, and movie theaters bodes well for our contractors as they continue providing the essential services their customers and community need. Our contractors' hard work over the summer months will be critical in ensuring that students indeed return to the classroom this fall, and I have no doubt they will be successful in helping our area build back better.

We here at SMCA want to wish our members, industry fund contributors, and all our readers a healthy and happy summer. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming fall events!

Respectfully,

Peter H. Jenkins, SMCA Executive Director

## JATC Update

In May, the Philadelphia JATC welcomed its newest class of 28 apprentices into the unionized sheet metal industry. Men and women from a variety of backgrounds and experiences were tested, interviewed, and ultimately selected as the "best of the best" from hundreds of applicants. The future is bright for this new class, and SMCA wishes them the best of luck as they begin their careers.

### *List of new apprentices?*

The Joint Apprenticeship Program, operated by SMCA and Sheet Metal Workers Local 19, utilizes state-of-the-art equipment and techniques to develop new apprentices into highly skilled sheet metal workers. During the rigorous 4 ½ year program, apprentices

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## How to Make the Most of a SMACNA Annual Convention

Attending the SMACNA Annual Convention might be one of the best things an SMCA contractor can do for his or her business. At convention, you can learn about industry



trends, gain new skills, and make new connections with peers from around the country. But with numerous speakers and learning sessions, along with many more contacts and conversations than you might think, the experience can be overwhelming if you don't show up with a plan. Here are some tips to get the most out of your convention experience in October:

### Before the Convention

**Increase Your Visibility:** What better way to maximize your experience than by participating directly? Consider volunteering for a committee, suggesting a speaker or topic, or serving as a panel member for group sessions. If you take on a visible role during Convention, you can set yourself apart from the large crowd.

**Strengthen Your Relationships:** Convention offers plenty of time to meet new people, but it's also the perfect time to build on existing relationships. Especially following a year of travel and gathering restrictions due to COVID-19, you may want to reach out before the Convention to clients, vendors, or peers to set up a time to meet for a meal or just to catch up during the event.

### During the Convention

**Make a Plan:** When checking in, make sure to ask SMACNA staff about the schedule for each day – they can give you the scoop on what not to miss. SMACNA also sets up a Convention app that can be downloaded to your smart phone for easy access to schedules, speakers, and events.

**Choose the Right Sessions:** There will always be more sessions available at Convention than you will be able to attend. So, when planning your schedule for the week, examine the conference as a whole. Seek out the sessions focusing on topics and skills relevant

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- ★ [2021 Mel Wind Award](#)
- ★ [American Rescue Plan Act](#)

## Fatalities Leave Homes Empty

There comes a point when discussing a fatality or even reading about one on a construction site can provoke awareness in homes the fatality did not directly affect. Recently I conducted a fall protection training and I spoke to attendees about the importance of walking the job site, especially when they work at heights to ensure there are no possible fall or trip hazards that should be addressed before any work is started.

Unfortunately, a few weeks before the training, an HVAC worker fatally fell to their death off a scaffold down a 30-foot opening below. As further details regarding the accident are being investigated by OSHA, I said to attendees of this firm, just because you have worked in unsafe conditions before and nothing ever happened to you does not mean you should continue to exhibit complacent safety behavior. I then said to the attendees, “what if this worker who fell had a child or children?” The child or children will no longer be able to greet their mother or father as they did every day they came home from work. The home that the child or children knew that was filled with love and joy will now be a little emptier due to the fatal accident of their parent.

As the training session concluded attendees acknowledged that no one is exempt from experiencing a serious injury or fatality when safety hazards such as possible falls are overlooked. I encourage them to perform the correct safety practices each day, so that their families will never have to experience the devastating loss that the family of the HVAC worker is currently dealing with.



Greg Wharton  
Safety & Education Director  
(610) 828-4055 [gwharton@smca.org](mailto:gwharton@smca.org)

## Washington Lawmakers Get on Board with SMCA

In April, SMCA hosted its first in-person event since 2020's Coronavirus precautions forced a move to virtual meetings. SMCA contractors and their guests gathered aboard the Moshulu in Philadelphia for the 2021 Legislative Dinner and Membership Meeting. President Dominic Bonitatis called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone to begin the evening.

Representative Brian Fitzpatrick of Bucks County, appearing virtually, thanked and congratulated SMCA's contractors for providing critical services to their community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Representatives Dwight Evans and Brendan Boyle of Philadelphia joined SMCA in person to discuss the government's plans for infrastructure and continued recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Congressmen also spent time chatting with contractors about industry issues and how to address them in Washington.

John Wanner, Executive Vice President of SMACNA of Pennsylvania, provided an update on the political climate in Harrisburg and SMACNA of PA's advocacy efforts to strengthen prevailing wage, anti-indemnification laws, and crack down on misclassification of employees as independent contractors.

The evening was a success as contractors were able to reconnect with industry colleagues and the politicians who represent them in Washington for the first time in over a year. With COVID-19 restrictions loosening in the area, SMCA is planning for return to our traditional calendar of live events this year. We hope to see you soon!



Congressman Dwight Evans



Congressman Brendan Boyle



## SMCA Welcomes its 2021-22 Officers, Directors, and Trustees

On June 3, SMCA held its 2021 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, Directors, and Trustees at the Water Works in Philadelphia. The Annual Meeting is one of the most important events on SMCA's calendar as it provides member contractors the opportunity to discuss industry issues, make plans for the coming fiscal year, and shape the next year of association leadership by electing Officer positions and filling any vacancies on the Board of Directors and Board of Industry Fund Trustees. Please join us in saying congratulations and good luck to this year's Association leaders!

### Board of Directors

Dominic Bonitatis, III, President

Dennis O'Brien, Vice President

Jack Titlow, Secretary/Treasurer

Kenneth Wurst, Past President

Glen Armstrong, Director

Gary Luthe, Sr., Director

Ernest J. Menold, Director

Regina Onorato, Director

Matthew Sano, Director

### Industry Fund Trustees

Robert Johnston, Jr., Chairman

Richard Braendle, Vice Chairman

Kenneth Wurst, Secretary/Treasurer

Gary Luthe, Sr., Past Chairman

Mark Georgette, Jr., Trustee

Matthew Mitchell, Trustee

Jordan Thomas, Trustee

## Schedule of Events

### SMCA Golf Outing

September 13, 2021

Medford Village Country Club



### SMCA Engineers Night

October 7, 2021

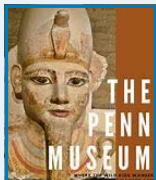
Sheraton Phila Downtown



### SMCA Holiday Reception

November 19, 2021

Penn Museum



## SMCA Heads South with the Northeast States

In April, SMCA traveled to Key West, Florida for the spring meeting of the Northeastern States Sheet Metal Contractors Council. Contractors and Chapter Executives from Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Mas-



sachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia gathered to discuss issues affecting both their local and the regional areas. Perhaps more importantly, it was the first opportunity for many attendees to travel and meet in-person since the COVID-19 pandemic halted traditional events in 2020. Contractors were able to share best practices in working during a pandemic, discuss upcoming negotiations with their local unions, and get a better understanding of industry trends and economic forecasts for the year.

Industry speaker Kevin Dougherty conducted a bidding seminar for contractors, "How to Get the Jobs at Your Price." Mike McNally of Fox Roth-



schild discussed multiemployer pension funds and issues affecting contractors. SMACNA National participated via Zoom with updates on labor,

federal legislation, and plans for the remainder of 2021.

SMCA was well represented at the meeting with President Dominic Bonitatis, Past President Ken Wurst, Director Gary Luthe, and Executive Director Pete Jenkins in attendance. To close the meeting, Ken Wurst (Air Concepts, Inc.) was named Chairman of the Council, serving a term that will run through 2023. Congratulations Ken!

## Hunter Mechanical. Inc Preps 4 Penn Center for EPA

Philadelphia’s well known business plaza, Penn Center is renovating 9 floors in the 4 Penn Center building on the 1600 block of John F. Kennedy Boulevard. The building that was built in 1964 has been occupied by many tenants over the past 57 years. By January 2022, their new tenant the Environmental Protection Agency, will occupy 9 floors in the building which is approximately 173,000-sf of space in the 522,000-sf building.

SMCA’s member firm – Hunter Mechanical, Inc. was awarded the project to install round and square duct on all 9 floors. Hunter Mechanical, Inc. General Foreman, Josh Willcocks, and 13 of Hunter Mechanical, Inc. finest sheet metal workers have been on the site since January where they have completed 8 out of the 9 floors that the EPA will occupy.



Hunter Mechanical. Inc looks forward to closing out another successful project and leaving their mark at another historic building in Philadelphia while working alongside their contracted firm from Maryland, James G. Davis Construction.



New shaft duct in a vacant shaft on the 4th floor.



3rd Floor duct installed.



4th floor square and round duct installed.

**Hunter Logo**

## President's Column



Welcome summer! This year is flying by, I can't believe 2021 is already halfway over.

I enjoyed the return of SMCA events this spring, welcoming my fellow contractors back at Legislative Night and shooting the breeze (and some clay pigeons) with them at Lehigh Valley in May.

SMCA's Annual Meeting in June was a great time for everyone to reconnect. I would especially like to congratulate Gary Luthe for the Mel Wind Award! Thanks for all you have done for the industry. I would also like to congratulate SMCA's Officers, Directors, and Industry Fund Trustees elected to serve this year. Thank you all for your dedication to improving our industry and for your support during my time as SMCA President.

I am happy to say it appears that we have turned the corner on the COVID pandemic. By now everyone should have filed PPP forgiveness applications with their banks for processing. As always if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask and we will point you in the right direction.

Bidding has been very strong throughout the first half of the year, yet the awarding of projects seems to be lagging. As everyone is aware, the price of steel is up and has been hard to get at times. My hope is this summer will see projects ramping up, and material costs and availability stabilize.

As always, SMCA is here for our members. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions or concerns, we will do our best to help you along.

## SMACNA Convention

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to you and your career. Look for social events that give you the chance to spend time with friends and colleagues. And don't forget to allow yourself some down time!



**Remember What You Learn:** With long, full days, there will be lots to take in during Convention and it will be hard to remember it all. Be sure to take notes and gather information for when you get back home. After each session, write down a few key takeaways and note any follow-up questions or thoughts on the topic you might have.

**Connect with the Speakers:** The speakers at these sessions are experts in the field (making them people you want to know!). Don't be afraid to ask questions or talk to them after the event. And if you don't get a chance to ask them in person, take time to email them after the event.

**Put Away the Phone:** Sure, you probably have some emails from work that need answering. But remember that you're at Convention for the in-person learning experience and social interaction. When you're buried in your phone, you're missing valuable chances to learn from and speak with the other attendees.

### After the Convention

**Friendly Following Up:** At Convention you met new people and collected business cards or LinkedIn accounts. When you return from the event, send a personal follow-up to those people you met. Consider setting up a phone call or meeting with anyone you met that you want to do business or build a relationship with.

**Pay it Forward:** You gathered a lot of new information, tips, and contacts at Convention. One of the best things you can do as an SMCA member is share those resources with your company, your friends, and your peers at SMCA. Talk about something you found valuable in a session, share a great tip with co-workers, let your peers know about the great connection you made with an out-of-state vendor. By doing so, you help both yourself and your industry get that much better.



# American Rescue Plan Act

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law. ARPA was passed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and, among other things, extends certain tax credits for employers, extends pandemic-related unemployment benefits, provides relief for certain individuals insured under COBRA continuation coverage, extends funding improvement and rehabilitation periods for certain multiemployer defined benefit pension plans, and offers special financial assistance to certain financially distressed multiemployer pension plans.

For employers, ARPA extends to September 30, 2021 the payroll tax credit available for voluntarily offering emergency paid sick leave and/or emergency family medical leave pursuant to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). However, ARPA does not require employers to offer FFCRA leave.

If an employer chooses to offer FFCRA leave, in addition to extending the tax credit, ARPA “resets” each employee’s amount of available FFCRA leave to the original amount available under the FFCRA. For example, an employee who previously used 80 hours of emergency paid sick leave will be reset and eligible for another 80 hours. ARPA also adds new qualifying events for FFCRA leave including the need for leave to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine and/or to recover from vaccine side effects. With respect to emergency family medical leave, ARPA expands eligibility to include the same criteria as emergency paid sick leave and, if voluntarily offered by the employer, ARPA requires the employer to offer 12 weeks of paid emergency family leave (i.e. there is no longer a 2-week waiting period).

ARPA also extends the employee retention tax credit under the CARES Act for wages paid from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 and allows certain startup employers to take the credit.

For individuals, ARPA extends pandemic-related unemployment compensation, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and full federal funding of extended unemployment compensation, to September 6, 2021. Certain individuals that have elected COBRA continuation coverage are also eligible for premium assistance. Specifically, any COBRA pre-

mium payments due from April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021 will be treated as having been paid in full. Employers and employee benefit plans will have to pay the premiums on behalf of eligible

individuals but can recoup the amounts paid through a tax credit.

For multiemployer defined benefit pension plans, plan sponsors of endangered or critical status plans in a funding improvement or rehabilitation period may choose to extend such periods by five years. ARPA does not discuss how this extension works with the similar three-year extension offered in the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act (WRERA) of 2008. Until the Department of Labor issues guidance, it is unclear whether ARPA’s five-year extension will overlap or add to WRERA’s three-year extension. At a minimum, endangered or critical plans that elected the WRERA extension (like the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 Pension Plan) can extend their funding improvement or rehabilitation periods by at least two years under ARPA.

ARPA also “bails out” certain financially distressed multiemployer pension plans through special financial assistance. A plan is eligible if it (1) is in critical and declining status, (2) has had a suspension of benefits, (3) is in critical status with a modified funded percentage of less than 40% and a ratio of active to inactive participants of less than 2:3, or (4) is insolvent and has not been terminated. The amount of assistance an eligible plan can receive is equal to the amount required for the plan to pay all benefits due during the period beginning on the date assistance is paid and ending in 2051. There is no cap on assistance, nor are eligible plans obligated to repay the amount of assistance. It is unclear how the special financial assistance will affect a Plan’s withdrawal liability calculation.

By: Brian Shire and Mark Levensgood



**SUSANIN WIDMAN & BRENNAN, PC**  
COUNSELLORS AT LAW



# SMCA Fires Away at Lehigh Valley

On May 24, SMCA hosted its 2021 Sporting Clays Outing at Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays. Sporting Clays was first developed in England as a recreational activity for hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts. Different from skeet or trap shooting, it is often described as “golf with a shotgun” because it involves walking or riding a natural terrain course to compete at several stations. This year, SMCA participants took on eight challenging shooting stations, cleverly etched into an abandoned 1800s cement quarry. Contractors, Suppliers, and their guests had great fun putting a dent in the clay pigeon and rabbit populations. SMCA congratulates the winners and thanks our gracious sponsors of the event!

### 2021 SMCA Sporting Clays Sponsors

Fisher Balancing Company Sponsored the Shells



Milwaukee Sponsored the Lunch



Susanin Widman & Brennan, PC Sponsored the Awards



Scott Harbison, Adam Moser, SMCA President Dominic Bonitatis, Sean Murphy, Conrad Bubak and John Hamilton.

### 2021 SMCA Sporting Clays Winners

1st Place Adam Moser (UEP)

2nd Place John Hamilton (TABB)

3rd Place Scott Harbison (General Insulation)

4th Place Conrad Bubak (Axis Kitchen Installation LLC)

5th Place Sean Murphy (Milwaukee Tools)

### Station Sponsors

- General Insulation Company
- Restaurant Ventilation Design
- Axis Kitchen Installation LLC
- General Aire Systems, Inc. (2)



Matt Sano of Fisher Balancing

Have a story idea or a project you are proud of,  
contact SMCA at 610-828-4055 or email it to [info@smca.org](mailto:info@smca.org).

## SMCA Partners with Colonial Life on Voluntary Benefits Plan

As part of its continuing mission to provide a variety of benefits and services to its Member Firms, SMCA has partnered with Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company to offer contractors the opportunity to participate in exciting new benefits options for eligible employees.



Colonial is a market leader in providing financial protection benefits through the workplace, including disability, life, accident, dental, cancer, critical illness, and hospital confinement indemnity insurance. The company's benefit services and education, innovative enrollment technology and personal service supports more than 85,000 businesses and organizations, representing more than 3.5 million of America's workers and their families.

SMCA member firms have the opportunity to participate in these options regardless of their participation in any other plans they currently sponsor for eligible employees. This offer is not designed to replace or change any existing plans, but to enhance current offerings.

By partnering with Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company, member firms have access to SMCA's unique underwriting offers, complimentary benefits, and reduced participation requirements. There is no cost to the Employer for offering these benefits.

Everyone's lifestyle and needs are different. Voluntary benefits from Colonial – on both an individual and group platform – offer a broad range of financial protection options for eligible employees and their families.

## JATC

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become competent in all aspects of the trade and are taught how to work efficiently and safely.

The Mid-Atlantic Apprentice Competition was held from June 3-5 at the Central Pennsylvania JATC in Hamburg, Pennsylvania. Apprentices from Philadelphia participated in friendly competition with those from locals throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. The competition also provided students, instructors, training coordinators, and business managers an opportunity to network and learn from their colleagues in other locals. Apprentices participated in two days of rigorous individual and team competition, building camaraderie, and showing off their top-notch skills and training. SMCA congratulates all the contestants!

## SMCA Congratulates Gary Luthe on Receiving the 2021 Mel Wind Award



The Mel Wind Award was established in 1981 and is given to an individual who has proven to be a leader in the unionized sheet metal industry

through their many contributions, involvement, and insight. It is awarded in recognition of outstanding service to the industry.

This year's award is presented to Gary Luthe of Luthe Sheet Metal. Gary opened the company in 1993 after first entering the industry as a Local 19 apprentice and sheet metal worker in the 1980's. Gary has been devoted to the industry and SMCA for many years, serving as President of the Association, Chairman of the Industry Fund, and numerous Committees and Task Forces. He currently sits on both the SMCA Board of Directors and Industry Fund Board of Trustees, in addition to serving as Co-Chairman of the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee. His dedication extends to the industry nationwide, as he also serves as a Board Member of the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association.

SMCA congratulates Gary and his family for being this year's Mel Wind Award winner, and we thank him for his service to the industry.





**Spotlight:**



**KANOMAX**  
*The Ultimate Measurements*

## **Kanomax USA**

As part of our ongoing mission to serve and inform the union sheet metal industry, SMCA stays in close contact with vendors and distributors who supply our contractors. These relationships led to the formation of the Supplier Liaison Council, which connects these industry representatives with contractors and fosters professional relationships. Each issue, we will take a closer look at one of these Supplier Council representatives.

### **What do you want SMCA Contractors, the engineering community and many other contacts to know about your company?**

Kanomax USA offers the most accurate HVAC Testing instruments, including the Duct Air Leakage Tester (DALT) - Model 6900 with automated leakage testing capability based on the SMACNA standard.

### **What is your company's latest resource now available or available soon?**

Kanomax has recently released the new Handheld Micromanometer - Model 6850 which takes airflow and pressure readings with a pitot tube, making it a great tool for duct traverse.

### **Is your company involved in supplying goods for an interesting project?**

There is no special project, but the Kanomax DALT has a SMACNA test mode to make sure contractors easily comply with SMACNA requirements for duct air leakage tests.

### **Who are the main contacts that you would want listed if you are selected for this feature?**

Kanomax Sales: [sales@kanomax-usa.com](mailto:sales@kanomax-usa.com)

Koji Miyasaka - General Manager: [kmiyasaka@kanomax-usa.com](mailto:kmiyasaka@kanomax-usa.com)

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